JOHNSON COMMUNITY CLUB (aka Johnson School House)

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Johnson Community Club aka Johnson School House

Even prior to the Civil War, Tennessee law required that an elementary school would exist in each civil district in the state. Ideally, there would have been a school within walking distance for every child. The area now comprising Brentwood was then the 15th Civil District of Williamson County, and it contained two schools. Lipscomb Elementary served the children on the east side of Franklin Road, and the Johnson School served the children on the west side of the road.

The Johnson School house probably dates to that period called the Ante-Bellum. After the Civil War, things changed for the school. New laws and the formation of a State Board of Education led, in 1872, to the formation of the Williamson County Board of Education. By 1885 the property of the Johnson School was deeded to the School Board. Official papers from the period state that the school was there for "the keeping of a public school under the laws of the State of Tennessee and for educational purposes generally." The Johnson School continued to operate until sometime in the 1940's.

After the school closed, the people of the Johnson Community (the Granny White Pike area) petitioned the School Board for permission to use the old school house for a community center. In 1946 the Johnson Community Club was in fact given access to the property, and in 1962 the Club was incorporated and the property was deeded to them.

As Brentwood grew and populations changed, and members of the club either died or moved away, the activities of the Johnson Community Club dwindled. It continued, however, to be a viable organization until the year 2000 when the property was transferred to the Johnson Chapel United Methodist Church. After renovations, the church has used the old school house for Sunday School classes and other church related activities.

Johnson School House

There was a time when Tennessee law required that there be a elementary school in each civil district in the state. The idea was that there should be a school within walking distance of every child in the state.

Brentwood, which was the old 15th Civil District of Williamson County had two elementary schools in the old days. Lipscomb Elementary School served children on the east side of Franklin Road. Children on the west side of Franklin Road were served by the old Johnson School, which stood next to the Johnson Chapel United Methodist Church. The general area in the old days was called the Johnson Community. It was there long before Brentwood was even thought of.

It is not known when the Johnson Elementary School first opened. It probably dates back long before the Civil War. After the Civil War, a new State Constitution was adopted which required that every child in the State of Tennessee, both black and white, have access to a free public education, at least through the elementary grades. Prior to the adoption of that Constitution, there was no such thing as a free public education.

The new Constitution also required that there be a State Board of Education and that every county in the state have a County Board of Education. The Williamson County Board of Education was formed in 1872. It was probably because of the work of this new County Board of Education that the Johnson School property was deeded to the County Board of Education in 1885. The deed recited that a new school building was to be erected for the keeping of a public school under the laws of the State of Tennessee and for educational purposes generally. The Johnson School continued until sometime in the early 1940's.

After Johnson School closed, the people in the old Johnson Community got together and formed a Community Club. They persuaded the Williamson County Board of Education to allow the Community Club to use the property for the purposes of a community center. The Williamson County Board of Education adopted a resolution in February of 1946 allowing the Johnson Community Club to use the property. It proved to be such a worthwhile arrangement that the Williamson County Board of Education deeded to property to the Johnson Community Club in 1962. The Community Club incorporated for the purpose of being able to hold title to the property.

The Johnson Community Club was active for many years and carried on an active program of activities at the Johnson Community Club. Some of the people who were active in the Community Club included Mr. and Mrs. Lurton Goodpasture, Mr. and Mrs. George Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Rasmussen, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cowert, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Ridley Goodpasture, Mr. and Mrs. Marion F. Oden, Mr. and Mrs. William Vaughan, Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCann, Mrs. and Mrs. S. L. Morrow, and many others.

As population patterns shifted and old members died or moved away, the activities of the Johnson Community Club dwindled. But it continued as a viable organization until 2000 when the property was transferred to the Johnson Chapel United Methodist Church. The church renovated the property and began to use if for Sunday School classes and other church activities.